(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen a report of a statement to this effect by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius.

(b) to (d) Government have in all international fora consistently acknowledged Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia and called for its return to Mauritius. Government have associated themselves with the same position taken by the Non-aligned Movement. The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Cyprus in September 1988 also expressed concern over the strengthening of the military base at Diego Garcia whose establishment has endangered the sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of Mauritius and other states. The Foreign Ministers called for the early return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius

Creation of SAARC Fund

854. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of SAARC to create a SAARC Fund to remove trade imbalances in the South Asian region; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Notice for Strike by Employees and Workers of Eastern Railway

855. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees and workers of the Eastern Railway had given notice for strike, if their demands were not conceded to by 31st March, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the nature of these demands; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Railway Line between Raichur and Macherla in Andhra Pradesh

956. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of new railway line between Raichur and Macherla in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter rests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A survey for a new B.G. railway line between Raichur and Macherla (260 km) is in progress.

Recruitment in the Archaeological Survey of India

857. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government effected certain amendments to the Recruitment Rules of the Group 'A' Officers of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1982 adversely affecting a larger section of the officers and without considering and disposing of the legitimate objections raised by some officers of the general cadre, in order to bring the heads of specialised branches like, Science, Conservation and Opigraphy into general cadre for promotion to